GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2286
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
DEATHS DUE TO POLLUTION
Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Centre of Science and Environment has in its recent studies disclosed about a large number of deaths in the major cities of the country caused by the environmental pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof showing the total annual increase in environmental pollution in terms of percentage vis-a-vis increase in the number of deaths during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the strategy being chalked out by the Government to check the environmental degradation causing a large number of deaths every year; and

(d) the expenditure involved therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Non-Governmental Organisation, has not done any study recently disclosing on large numbers of deaths in the major cities of the country caused by environmental pollution. However, CSE undertook a study in 1997 on the ill effects of air pollution on health and found increased incidences of morbidity and mortality in few Indian cities. CSE also undertook a study in the year 2004 on pesticide exposure in some villages in Punjab and found pesticide residues in the blood samples. However, there is no conclusive scientific evidence available to establish cause-effect relationship between the environmental pollution and incidences of mortality and morbidity.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, no definite trend of increase in air pollution in residential areas of major cities was observed except in respect of Oxides of Nitrogen and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matters (RSPM) in few metro cities during the last two years.

(c) & (d) Strategies adopted for control of environmental pollution include comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel including CNG, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, setting up of net-work of air & water quality monitoring stations, rivers and lakes conservation programmes, assessment of pollution load & source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities and critically polluted areas. Budgetary allocation of about Rs.487 crores provided to this Ministry during the current financial year include undertaking various plan schemes pertaining to monitoring and control of pollution, hazardous waste management, common effluent treatment plants, rivers and lakes conservation programmes, environment impact assessment of developmental projects, clean technologies etc. Besides, the budgetary allocations of other concerned Ministries and Departments at the Central and State levels also include schemes for conservation and improvement of environment.